

Farmington Observer

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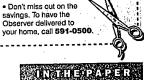
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Beechview meeting: The Farmington Board of Education met in special session Tuesday in an attempt to solve some problems brought up by parents. /4A

Pipe problems: Freezing water pipes can be costly — especially if they're part of a fire sprinkler sys-tem. /6A

OPINION

Hills agenda: What we think about some of the important issues that Farmington Hills faces in the new year. /14A

Reaching out: Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer and Wayne/Oakland county executives must re solve regional problems together.

Guest column: Richard Rothrock of Farmington Hills thinks that censorship won't solve the world's problems. /15A

SPORTS

Swim meet: Farmington and North Farmington competed against West Bloomfield Tuesday.

Hoop results: Farmington-area basketball teams took a break from Western Lakes competition Tuesday to challenge non-league foes. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT

Theater: Meadow Brook Theatre's "Shirley Valentine" is funny, insightful and big-hearted. /6B

INDEX

Business 1F	C
Classifieds D-G	C
Auto	Ē
Index8E,11F	Q
EmploymentF.G	0
Real estate E.F	P

reative Living . 1D Crossword . . . 9E
Entertainment . . 6B
Obituaries . . . 5B
Opinion . . . 14-15A
Police, fire calls . . 2A
Personal Scene . . 8G

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Tender soul' mourned



Those who knew Jackie Ponke well are struggling to understand why "the sweetest person in the whole world" was brutally murdered.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

STAFF WATTER

Friends and relatives say Jackie
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Friends and relatives say Jackie
Frenke would often put others' needs
before her own. Her selflessness,
though, is something her killer would
use to his advantage.

Fonke, 36, who was bludgeoned to
death Jan. 8 in the Farmington dental

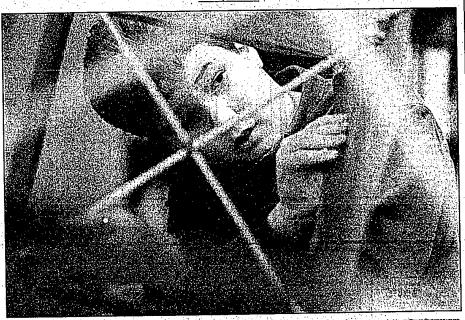
"I said several days ago, 'My wife Judy says give you a month off, dackie.' She goes, 'Oh yeah, and then this nile would be twice as high.'
"At lunch with the girls (other office employees). . . she said, 'Ruy and I cannot exist together on this carth. If take a month off, he'll be here, my work will be here. I'm not taking a month off."
Her husband Raymond Ponke is charged with first degree murder and is being held without bond in Oskland County Jail. Preliminary exami-

See MURDER, 8A



Jackie Ponke

Go fly a kite



School project: Brandyn Thurman, a student at the Glastonbury School in Farmington Hills, assembles a box kite that will

School puts pupils through their own paces

"Glastonbury was the answer to our prayers," according to Kay Salciccioli, parent of a student at the Farmington Hills private school. She was looking for an alternative school for her daughter, Kathryn, a school that would be quiet, embody values and offer a small student-to-

"It was very difficult for her to concentrate in public schools based on the size of the classrooms," said Salciccioil, a West Bloomfield resident.

"Glastonbury has two strong rules One is that they have to put forth their best effort and they must be kind to each other and those are

Teachers at Glastonbury person-alize work to fit the needs of each student, according to Deborah Knapp, Glastonbury director and teacher. The school has three fulltime teachers and one part-

structor.
Public school teachers, on the

See GLASTONSURY, 3A

Hills officials to take on taxing problems in '94

BY BILL COUTANT

Despite a year of accomplishments in 1993, Farmington Hills officials will have another full plate in '94. City manager Bill Costick will be going over the projects and the perils of paying for them in an uncertain tar year when he meets with the council for a goals session Feb. 5.

"As far as (state) rovenue sharing goes, nobody knows what's going to happen," he said. "We could lose as much as \$1 million."

The big unknown of what the state's new tax mix will be has left cities up in the air for budget purposes and "coution" as the watchword in 1994, he said.

Even so, 1994 will be a year of tying up loose ends from projects begun last year and before.

Although the city has come up with the financing and an agreement to buy about 27 acres, including C wing of the Mercy Center for its senior programs and other uses, a policy on use and fees, if any, should be developed.

"We need a policy on who will use it, what we'll charge and what the name will be," Costick said. "We've already made a commitment to the symphony (Farmington Area Philharmonic Orchestra), to the community chorus, the artist's club and some others," he said.

Parks and recreation concerns will require a lot of action this year as well. Improvements at the Foundars Sports Park and Woodland Hills Park, and consideration of a plan to build a multi-use indoor arens will be

dealt with.

The city will complete work on three baseball fields, three soccer fields and a concession/comfort station as the first phase in the park's development this year.

The city will put in nature trails at Woodland Hills this year as well, Contick said.

Woodland Hills this year as well, Costick said.
"We want to get some people from the Naturalist Club to help us decide where those trails are going," he said.

Hills police arrest 20 in gambling raid

BY BILL COUTANT BTAPF WRITER

Farmington Hills police officers raided a large-scale floating dice game, arrested 20 people and confiscated more than \$65,000 in cash along with gambling parephernalis and a pistol at 2 am. Wednesday at 31879 Kingawood Square in the Hunter's Ridge complex.

The raid followed a tip and surveillance by the Parmington Hills Police Department's undercov-runit in recent days, Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer said.

After obtaining a search warrant from 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris, a task force of

16 Hills officers raided the apartment, which Dwyer said was not otherwise occupied, but was used exclusively for gambling. Of the 20 people arrested in the raid, 17 were ticketed for foltering in a place of illegal occupation, a 90-day mis-demeanor.

in a place of ingas occupancy, a second demeanor. Warranta on felony charges will be obtained for three people on felony gambling charges, Dwyer said. Some of the people arrested have been arrested and convicted in other gambling stings. One of the men had been arrested in 1920 at an address on Lake Park Drive in Farmington Hills, at which more than 30 people were arrested and more than \$80,000 was confiscated.

Dwyer praised the work of Sgt. Doug Ander-son, Sgt. Gil Kohls and the department's under-

cover unit.
"These are some high rollers," Dwyer said of those arrested. "The were cutting the pot Lea Vegas-style (about 10 percent)."

Dwyer said he expects the three arrested on felony charges to be arraigned next week. The raid is the biggest for illest gambling in Farmington Hills since October 1990 when Hills police busted an operation at the Comfort Inn on 12 Mile and Orchard Lake, arresting 15 men and confiscating \$14,000.